

****Approved Minutes****
Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness
(PAIMI) Advisory Council Meeting
August 12, 2004
Charlottesville, Virginia

Members Present: Mark Lester, Scott DuVal, Lisa DuVal, Chris Harrison, Irene Rebholz, Philip Marsteller, and Lisa Harrison.

Members Absent: Victoria Huber, Margaret Walsh, Vicky Fisher, Terry Grimes, and Christine Poole.

Staff Present: Colleen Miller, Sherry Confer, Dee Vance, and Steven Traubert.

Guests Present: None.

Call to Order: Mark Lester, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 A.M.

Welcome and Introductions: Mark Lester welcomed the Council and everyone present to the Holiday Inn and Conference Center. Following the welcome, Council members and staff introduced themselves to one another.

Public Comment: There was no public comment offered.

Minutes: The minutes from the May 13, 2004 meeting were reviewed with no changes. Irene Rebholz made a MOTION to approve the minutes. Chris Harrison seconded the MOTION and it carried unanimously.

PAIMI Training: Steven Traubert, VOPA'S Staff Attorney, gave a presentation on the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). HAVA was passed in 2002 to improve the election process, replace outdated voting equipment, and increase polling place accessibility for individuals with disabilities. In the fall of 2003, VOPA received a HAVA grant to assist in assuring that Virginia complies with the Act and make polling places accessible.

The first work VOPA conducted under this new grant was to review the State Plan on Voting Access and monitor the steps taken to implement HAVA. Next, VOPA continued to work under its polling place accessibility Focus Area. This Focus Area allows VOPA to conduct their own investigation of polling places and determine if the locations are accessible to individuals with disabilities of all kinds. In addition to our own investigations, VOPA is working with the State Board of Elections Polling Site Accessibility Coordinator (Doug Rueff), to conduct additional surveys; thus giving VOPA the right to utilize the additional information to further advocate for accessible polling places. VOPA also created an ADA Checklist for Polling Places document that will be available in alternate forms within the next two weeks.

Mr. Traubert ended his presentation by reminding everyone that HAVA requires 100% compliance with the ADA and Virginia's laws relating to people with disabilities, but only for the day of elections.

Board of Director's Update: Colleen Miller gave the Board of Director's Update in Maureen Hollowell's (VOPA's new Chairman) absence. The Board met on July 19, 2004 and elected a new Chair, Maureen Hollowell and Vice Chair, P. Brent Brown Esq. Barbara Barrett, VOPA Board's previous Chairman, will remain a member for another year. The Board is planning a retreat on November 11th and 12th for VOPA's Board Members Management Staff, and the Chairman of both the DAC and PAIMI Advisory Council. The purpose of the retreat is to work on strategic planning while focusing on the strengths of the agency and the part the Board and the Councils play in VOPA's mission.

VOPA will hold two focus groups, one in Arlington and the other in Roanoke. The purpose of the two focus groups will be to collect information for the priority planning process. Then the priority committee will determine how to use the feedback from the groups.

Finally yet importantly, VOPA passed the MTARS with "flying colors" and was cited for a best practice. The MTARS review team conducted a review and found no problems and no compliance issues. A written report of the review will be sent later and it was suggested to VOPA to share the report with legislature.

Priority Planning Process: Sherry Confer explained VOPA's public comment process. Then she gave the council the recommended changes to the Goals and Focus Areas. Following that discussion, Ms. Confer gave an update on the draft calendar. VOPA would implement one of the Disabilities Advisory Council's recommendations, from a previous meeting, and have representatives from different groups come together at one meeting and conduct a focus group. Ms. Miller will conduct the focus group in Roanoke and Ms. Confer will conduct the focus group in Arlington.

After Ms. Confer explained the process, she conducted a practice focus group with the Council. After she finished, she asked the Council for feedback and ways to improve the process. Council suggested the following: having a focus group for each goal; and having a two part session and divide the group smaller groups for the first half and the second half the group will come together to discuss information relayed in the smaller groups.

Lunch: The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:32 p.m.

Executive Director's Update: The meeting reconvened after lunch at 1:16 p.m. with an Executive Director's update by Colleen Miller. She began her update by highlighting some of the agency's work in the 3rd Quarter Progress Report on pages 28, 32, 35, and 37 of the PAIMI packet. Next, Ms.

Miller reviewed the Litigation Report and answered questions from the Council.

**PAIMI Council's
Annual Report:**

Mr. Lester headed the discussion by asking Council if they had any areas of interest where they would like to have some type of training. Council members took a moment and then gave the areas in which they would like to have some training. Next Mr. Lester asked Council to submit all of the training/workshops they have attended over the past year. This information will be used for the annual PAIMI Report that is due at the end of the year. For those who could not think of any areas where they wanted to receive trainings, they were given the opportunity to email or call Dee Vance with that information.

Other Business:

Mr. Lester presented Steve Dickerson a plaque for all of his work in the rehabilitation facility and his dedication to the PAIMI Advisory Council. Mr. Dickerson's term will end at the end of the month.

Mr. Lester headed a discussion with the interested potential new members, Lisa DuVal and Byron Stith. Each person introduced himself or herself, talked about his or her interests and experiences and told why they were interested in becoming a member of the PAIMI Advisory Council. Following their discussion, they were given an overview of VOPA and the PAIMI Advisory Council. After the overview, the invited guests were asked to leave the room and Council went into executive session to vote on their membership.

Margaret Walsh made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting into closed session for the purpose of conducting business pertaining to the Council's membership. This meeting is specifically authorized to be conducted in closed session pursuant to section §2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia. Chris Harrison seconded the MOTION and it carried unanimously.

Mark Lester made a MOTION to certify that only such public business as that identified in the MOTION to close the meeting was heard or considered. Mr. Lester asked if everyone agreed with the MOTION and all Council members agreed by saying "aye". No one opposed and the record reflects that the MOTION certifying the content of the closed meeting has carried unanimously.

Margaret Walsh passed around handouts on the Recovery Model Rights and Recovery Campaign that was conducted by the PAIMI Council in Ohio. She asked the Council to read the handouts and to decide if they would be interested in conducting a similar campaign. Mr. Lester advised the Council to read the materials and he ask Dee Vance to add the discussion to the agenda for the Council's next meeting.

Next Meetings:

The Council's next meeting will be held on August 12, 2004 in Charlottesville.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before them, the Council adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Accepted by:

Mark Lester, Chairman

Date: _____

Chris Harrison, Secretary